

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-02 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 COME-00

AGR-05 (ISO) W

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R 220751Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3693

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 7026

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, RP

SUBJECT: LAUREL-LANGLEY - REVIEW OF LAND ISSUES WITH AMERICAN
CHAMBER

REF: MANILA 6982

1. AT REQUEST AMERICAN CHAMBER BOARD, ECON/COMMERCIAL
COUNSELOR MET WITH AMCHAM MAY 21 TO REVIEW STATUS LAUREL-
LANGLEY LAND ISSUES. MOOD OF CHAMBER, WHILE STILL REFLECTING
A VAGRANT NOSTALGIA FOR VESTED RIGHTS, WAS REFRESHINGLY
FOCUSED ON PUTTING LAND PROBLEMS INTO HISTORY AND GETTING ON
WITH SOLVING FUTURE PROBLEMS, E.G., RETAIL TRADE,
MANAGEMENT RIGHTS (ANTI-DUMMY LAW) AND OVERALL TRADE/
INVESTMENT TALKS.

2. BASED ON POLL OF 51 FIRMS TAKEN BY AMCHAM MAY 19-20,
BOARD REPORTED THAT OF ABOUT 62 FIRMS KNOWN TO HAVE
INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL/AGRICULTURAL LAND PROBLEMS, 42 HAD
DEFINITE PLANS UNDERWAY, THREE WERE STILL HESITATING
BETWEEN PLANS AND SIX HAD YET NO DEFINITE PLANS. AMCHAM
BOARD URGED LATTER FIRMS TO PRESENT PROPOSALS TO GOP BEFORE
MAY 27 DEADLINE. ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, DRAWING ON
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AMBASSADOR'S TALK WITH MARCOS REPORTED REFTTEL,

REITERATED BOARD'S ADVICE AND SAID THAT FIRMS FAILING TO TAKE ACTION BY MAY 27 WERE PROCEEDING AT THEIR OWN RISK. COMMENT: SOME KNOWN HOLDOUTS INDICATED AFTER MEETING THAT THEY WOULD PRESENT PLANS.

3. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON REPORT OF MARCOS PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP BY PERMANENT RESIDENTS, AS REPORTED REFTEL. GENERAL CHAMBER REACTION TO THIS NEWS WAS VERY FAVORABLE, ALTHOUGH A FEW WONDERED WHAT NEW CRITERIA OF PERMANENT RESIDENCY MIGHT BE INVOLVED. PROSPECT THAT CHAMBER LEADERSHIP WOULD BE CONSULTED ON SUCH CRITERIA SEEMED TO DISPEL MOST CONCERN ON THIS POINT. PROPOSAL THAT BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF ALL NATIONALITIES COULD QUALIFY TO OWN A RESIDENCE WAS CONSIDERED VERY SENSIBLE AND PROBABLY DURABLE WAY TO HANDLE ISSUE.

4. CHAMBER BOARD CLOSED SESSION BY INDICATING THAT PRIORITIES FOR NEAR FUTURE DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY AND GOP WERE (A) IMPLEMENTING PENDING RETAIL TRADE DECREE; (B) PROMULGATING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ANTI-DUMMY ACT RESPECTING BOARD REPRESENTATION AND EXPATRIATE EMPLOYMENT; (C) THE IMMEDIATELY PENDING DISCUSSION WITHIN GOP OF REGULATIONS ON LOCAL BORROWING BY FOREIGN FIRMS; AND (D) THE NEXT AND HOPEFULLY FINAL ROUND OF TRADE/INVESTMENT TALKS.
SULLIVAN

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